



FEB. 1, 2005

HEALTH UPDATE

Updated Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) urges continued emphasis on vaccinating people at high risk for serious influenza-related complications. **In areas where supply is sufficient and to avoid vaccine wastage, influenza vaccination should be broadened to include any person who desires a flu shot.** Private providers and public health agencies should determine how to make the most effective use of their supply.

The North Dakota Immunization Program has approximately 3,000 doses of pediatric vaccine available. **This vaccine can now be used for any person age 6 months and older.** The NDDoH will provide this vaccine to private and public providers at no cost; however, the provider may charge the patient only an \$8 administration fee for the vaccine. Please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program to request vaccine for your facility.

Influenza vaccine obtained from the North Dakota Immunization Program currently in private or public provider offices can now be used for any person requesting vaccine.

A second option for obtaining vaccine allows public or private providers to order vaccine directly from sanofi pasteur (formerly Aventis Pasteur). Sanofi pasteur intends to sell doses with a return policy so that providers and facilities may order vaccine with minimal financial risk. Providers may return unused vaccine for a credit and will have financial responsibility for return shipping costs only. Doses purchased in this way may be used to vaccinate any person.

- 1. Sanofi pasteur will sell doses from the CDC stockpile directly to public and private providers, as well as to vaccine distributors. Both preservative-containing and preservative-free formulations will be available.**
- 2. This sale and distribution strategy will allow providers to order vaccine directly from sanofi pasteur or a vaccine distributor, rather than working through state or local health departments.**
- 3. Customers can obtain specific details about how the return policy will be implemented from sanofi pasteur or the distributor with whom they place their orders.**
- 4. This return policy applies only to influenza vaccine doses distributed from the CDC influenza vaccine stockpile. These doses are available for order immediately. Orders placed prior to Jan. 27, 2005, do not qualify for return credit.**

5. More information may be obtained from sanofi pasteur (www.vaccineshoppe.com or 1-800-VACCINE) or the distributor of your choice.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.